

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 1-12 are pending. In the office action, all pending claims are rejected.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 10 to include the limitation that the unintended touch pad input resulting from accidental touching of a touch pad device in an electronic device is by an external object when the touch pad is exposed to the external object. The support can be found in Figure 1; on page 6, lines 30 to 31 (the touch pad is touched by an object, such as the user's finger); and on page 8, lines 25 (the touch pad is outside the display). No new matter has been introduced.

At section 3, claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Newton* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0075243 A1), in view of *Hasegawa et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,208,330 B1, hereafter referred to as *Hasegawa*) and further in view of *Jambhekar et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,524, hereafter referred to as *Jambhekar*)

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner states that *Newton* discloses a touch pad device comprising a plurality of optical sensor components disposed along the sides of the touch pad area. The Examiner states that *Hasegawa* teaches an optical detection unit for detecting reflected light from the object. However, the Examiner admits that neither *Newton* nor *Hasegawa* discloses the steps of preventing unintended touch pad input, but points to *Jambhekar* for teaching an electronic device having a key lock function (switch 127) settable in a first state and a second state.

It is respectfully submitted that the switch 127 of *Jambhekar* is used to determine whether input functions are entered through the keypad 125 (first set of user functions) or directly entered on the touch screen itself (second set of user functions). The switch 127 is responsive to whether the housing element 109 is in the open position or in the closed position.

When the housing element 109 is in the open position, the user area (303) is exposed. While *Jambhekar* does not explicitly disclose how the exposed user area (303) is used, it can be assumed that it can be used to input data by an external object.

When the housing element 109 is in the closed position, the remaining part of the display (201, Figure 2) is used for displaying radio-telephone feedback such as a telephone number, a signal strength, a battery level and roaming information (col.3, lines 36-39). When the housing

element 109 is in the closed position, the user data area (303, Figure 3) is no longer exposed to an external object. A user has to use the keypad 125 to input user data (col. 3, lines 50-61). More importantly, whether the touch screen is exposed or not exposed, the switch 127 is not used for preventing unintended touch pad input. The keys on the keypad 125 may still be unintentionally pressed.

In contrast, in the present invention, the key lock function is settable in a first state to allow the user to input one of the input functions, and a second state to allow the user to input one of the selected input functions by touch input to the touch screen when the touch screen is exposed to an external object.

Moreover, even if optical sensor components were disposed in the user area of *Jambhekar* to detect the touching of the user data area 303 by an external object, those optical sensor components would be covered by the housing element 109 when the housing element 109 is in the closed position. As such, it would not be possible for those optical sensor components to detect an external object that unintentionally touch the keys on the keypad 125.

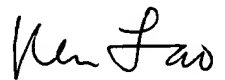
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the cited *Newton*, *Hasegawa* and *Jambhekar* references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 10 to further distinguish from the cited *Newton*, *Hasegawa* and *Jambhekar* references. As amended, claims 1-12 are allowable. Early allowance of claims 1-12 is earnestly solicited.

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